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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

December 7, 2000

The Honorable Aida Alvarez  
Administrator  
Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Ms. Alvarez:

During the week of October 30 - November 3, 2000, the Small Business Administration (SBA) executed a program intended to highlight the success of SBA programs. It was called "SBA Day," and I have enclosed a copy of the "SBA Day" planning document. On October 27, I delivered a statement on the Senate floor outlining the activities intended to be undertaken by the SBA during the week immediately preceding the presidential election. At that time, I urged you, the SBA Administrator, to delay the activities to protect SBA from the taint of political manipulation. Unfortunately, the Agency's activities were not delayed. Therefore, as part of the oversight activities of the Committee on Small Business (Committee), please provide the Committee with the following information about the SBA's activities:

1. According to the SBA planning document, one of the "goals" to be achieved Agency-wide was to "close or get commitments for as many new SBA guaranteed loans as possible" during the week in question. Please provide the Committee with the number of loans issued by each District Office.
2. According to the SBA planning document, SBA District Offices were directed to collaborate with "SCORE Chapters, district SBDCs, USEACs, and WBCs, ... (to) place at least one person in lender offices and branches throughout the country during the week of October 30 -November 3, 2000." Please justify to the Committee the purpose of this activity and identify by name and affiliation each individual participating in SBA's effort.

On October 27, 2000, I made a statement on the Senate floor informing my colleagues about the activities planned by SBA during the week immediately preceding the presidential election. I continue to believe that the activities planned by SBA, under your administration and with your consent, created, at a minimum, the appearance of impropriety. Moreover, I find it unfathomable that the SBA would direct the use of volunteers and organizations, dependent upon the SBA for their operational funds, to undertake the activities described in the SBA planning document. Further, to encourage SBA personnel and lenders to "close or get commitments for as many new SBA guaranteed loans as possible" during the week leading up to the presidential

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election could potentially place all SBA credit programs at risk.

Your prompt response by 3:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 15, 2000, will be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me or Paul Cooksey, the Committee's Chief Counsel, at (202) 224-

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. S. Bond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "C" and last name "Bond" being the most prominent parts.

Christopher S. Bond  
Chairman

DRAFT

## SBA Day Plan

### GOAL:

1. Raise public awareness of SBA programs and services and the impact these have on local communities.
2. Tout SBA accomplishments and announce SBA loan numbers for fiscal year 2000.
3. Kick off the new fiscal SBA year (2001) positively and collaboratively.
4. Close or get commitments for as many new SBA guaranteed loans as possible during the week of October 30 – November 3, 2000.

### Concept:

#### Week of October 30 – November 3, 2000

SBA District Offices, with the collaboration of SCORE Chapters, district SBDCs, USEACs, and WBCs, will place at least one person in lender offices and branches throughout the country during the week of October 30 – November 3, 2000. In particular, SBA district offices will make every effort to target lender offices/branches in key communities. (i.e. Hispanic, African-American, Asian, Native American, Export, Women)

Local lenders will be encouraged to make joint media announcements with SBA and coordinate advertising regarding SBA Day at their local offices/branches.

#### Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Media Announcement by all SBA offices of year-end accomplishments/loan numbers. A follow-up news release will be made the following week regarding the success of SBA Day.

SBA central office will announce national accomplishments and year-end numbers for FY2000 and will make mention of the hundreds of events going on all over the country kicking off SBA's new fiscal year.

SBA regional and district offices will incorporate regional and local accomplishments and year-end numbers for FY2000 into the central office national announcement and will publicize their local SBA Day events taking place at lender locations throughout their region/district.